

Message Text

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SUBJECT: THIRD COMMITTEE-SELF-DETERMINATION

1. TEXT FOLLOWS OF STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR BARBARA WHITE, OCTOBER 10, IN THIRD COMITE. DEBATE SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE OCTOBER 13.

QUOTE

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR BARBARA M. WHITE, UNITED STATES REPRESENTATIVE, IN COMMITTEE 3, ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE UNIVERSAL REALIZATION OF THE RIGHT OF PEOPLES TO SELF-DETERMINATION, OCTOBER 10, 1975.

1975 IS A SIGNIFICANT YEAR FOR THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. ANOTHER COLONIAL EMPIRE HAS RELAXED ITS GRIP AND COME TO AN END. TESTIMONY TO THIS PROGRESS IS HERE WITH US IN THE COMMITTEE--THE NEW MEMBER STATES, THE PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE, THE REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE, AND THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE. WE WELCOME THEM AS THE MOST RECENT FULFILLMENT OF A LEGITIMATE, HISTORIC YEARNING FOR SELF-DETERMINATION.

I GIVES ME SPECIAL PLEASURE TO MENTION THAT THIS VERY MOMENT, THE UNITED NATIONS IS ADMITTING PAPUA NEW GUINEA TO MEMBER-UNCLASSIFIED

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SHIP. AS THE UNITED STATES' REPRESENTATIVE ON THE TRUSTEESHIP

COUNCIL, I HAVE HAD THE SATISFACTION OF WORKING WITH BOTH AUSTRALIA, THE TRUST TERRITORY ADMINISTRATOR, AND THE LEADERS OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA DURING THE FINAL YEARS OF THE TRUSTEESHIP. MY GOVERNMENT SALUTES BOTH FOR A JOB WELL DONE, AND EXTENDS A HEARTY WELCOME TO THE NEW NATION.

1975 ALSO HAS A SPECIAL MEANING FOR AMERICANS. IT MARKS THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF WHAT WERE PERHAPS THE FIRST BLOWS STRUCK FOR SELF-DETERMINATION-THE ACTIONS OF AMERICAN PATRIOTS AT LEXINGTON AND CONCORD 200 YEARS AGO.

BECAUSE SELF-DETERMINATION IS A PRINCIPLE SO FUNDAMENTAL TO OUR OWN NATIONHOOD, IT HAS LIKEWISE FOUND REFLECTION IN OUR FOREIGN POLICY. IN THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY, THE UNITED STATES WAS AMONG THE FIRST TO RECOGNIZE THE NEW REPUBLICS OF LATIN AMERICA. IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, BOTH PRESIDENT WILSON AND PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT INCORPORATED THE PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION IN BASIC INTERNATIONAL DECLARATIONS, THE FOURTEEN POINTS OF 1918 -,\$ 5#3 ATLANTIC CHARTER OF 1941. SINCE THE END OF WORLD WAR II, WE HAVE SUPPORTED THE EFFORTS OF PEOPLES IN AFRICA, ASIA, AND THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE TO EXERCISE THEIR RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION AND SOUGHT TO CONTRIBUTE THROUGH ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THEIR EFFORTS TO BUILD NEW COUNTRIES ON THE BASIS OF THAT RIGHT. WE WILL CONTINUE TO DO SO.

HISTORY HAS RECORDED THAT THOSE EFFORTS OF AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN 1775 WERE MERELY THE FIRST STEPS IN A MARCH OF HISTORIC PROPORTION. OTHERS AROUND THE GLOBE CARRIED THIS STRUGGLE FORWARD-MEN AND WOMEN WHO SHARED THE BELIEF THAT THE FUTURE OF A PEOPLE SHOULD REST IN THE HANDS OF THAT PEOPLE.

ALTHOUGH THE PROCESS OF SELF-DETERMINATION HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES IN THE PAST QUARTER-CENTURY, IT IS NOT YET COMPLETE. VERY PROPERLY, THE UNITED NATIONS COUNTINUES TO FOCUS THE SPOTLIGHT OF WORLD ATTENTION UPON THOSE PEOPLES WHO HAVE NOT YET HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THEIR FREE CHOICE.

OF PARTICULAR CONCERN IS THE SITUATION IN NAMIBIA, WHERE MINORITY RULE DOGGEDLY PERSISTS. JUST LAST MONTH IN ADDRESSING MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY, SECRETARY OF STATE UNCLASSIFIED

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KISSINGER REITERATED THE UNITED STATES POSITION ON THE ILLEGAL OCCUPATION OF NAMIBIA:

THE UNITED STATES ALSO CONTINUES TO SUPPORT THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE'S ADVISORY OPINION OF 1971 AFFIRMING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S 1966 DECISION WHICH TERMINATED THE SOUTH AFRICAN MANDATE OVER NAMIBIA. THE UNITED STATES WILL TAKE NO STEPS THAT WOULD LEGITIMIZE SOUTH AFRICA'S ADMINISTRATION OF THE TERRITORY. WE

REPEATEDLY HAVE PROTESTED VIOLATIONS OF THE RIGHTS OF BLACK NAMIBIANS BY THE AUTHORITIES THERE.

WE BELIEVE THAT ALL NAMIBIANS SHOULD BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS FREELY, AND UNDER UN SUPERVISION, ON THE POLITICAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURE OF THEIR COUNTRY.

LIKEWISE IN RHODESIA, THE UNITED STATES SPOSES THE ILLEGAL REGIME BASED ON WHITE SUPREMACY, AND IS DOING ITS PART THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS TO WORK TOWARD THE GOAL OF SELF-DETERMINATION. WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE COURAGEOUS EFFORTS OF AFRICAN LEADERS TO BRING THE PARTIES TOGETHER WILL BEAR FRUIT.

MADAM CHAIRPERSON, I SHOULD LIKE TO RETURN BRIEFLY TO THE EXPERIENCE OF MY OWN COUNTRY IN THE EXERCISE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. WE BEGAN WITH A DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE THAT ASSERTED OUR FREEDOM FROM FOREIGN DOMINATION AND WE CONTINUED WITH A CONSTITUTION THAT GUARANTEES THE FREEDOMS AND INDEPENDENCE OF OUR CITIZENS. THUS, SELF-DETERMINATION BECAME THE FOUNDATION UPON WHICH OUR FREEDOMS HAVE BEEN CONSTRUCTED. THE STRUGGLE AGAINST FOREIGN RULE ENDED IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE TO THE PEOPLE.

OUR NEW INDEPENDENT SOVEREIGNTY RESIDED IN THE PEOPLE NOT THE STATE.

IT HAS BEEN A SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT FOR US THAT THE TRUTHS WE LEARNED FROM OUR OWN NATIONAL HISTORY HAVE ALSO BEEN GIVEN LIFE IN THE HISTORY OF OTHER PEOPLES. THAT ACHIEVEMENT OF SELF-DETERMINATION MUST MARK RENEWED EFFORTS TO GUARANTEE HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE DIGNITY OF THE INDIVIDUAL, AND THAT FREEDOM AMONG NATIONS IS INCOMPLETE UNLESS THERE IS ALSO FREEDOM WITHIN NATIONS.

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JUST LAST MONTH, THE SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WE JOINED TOGETHER IN CONSTRUCTIVE STEPS TO LESSEN ECONOMIC INSECURITY AND INEQUALITY AMONG PEOPLES. "WE HAVE HEARD YOUR VICES," THE UNITED STATES TOLD THE DEVELOPING NATIONS. "WE EMBRACE YOUR HOPES. WE WILL JOIN YOUR EFFORTS."

SELF-DETERMINATION, ECONOMIC SECURITY, RACIAL JUSTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS, FULL EQUALITY REGARDLESS OF SEX-TO WHICH INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S YEAR IS DEVOTED: EACH OF THESE GREAT GOALS IS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT OF HUMAN DIGNITY. ON ALL, THE VOICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SHOULD BE HEARD.

TO ACHIEVE THESE GOALS, MADAM CHAIRPERSON, A LENGTHY AGENDA FOR ACTION LIES AHEAD-ACTION BY THE UNITED NATIONS ITSELF AND BY EACH MEMBER NATION.

PART OF THAT AGENDA FALLS TO THIS COMMITTEE. MAY THE ACTION
THAT WE TAKE HERE RESPOND TO THE NEEDS AND BE WORTHY OF OUR AIMS.

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